

April 28, 2022

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

TBS Grant Deadline Extended to May 6

Public libraries in Idaho now have until **May 6** to apply for the “That All May Read Mini-Grant” from the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). The grant is in support of the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS).

The \$1,000 grant can be used for large-print books, audiobooks, assistive technology or equipment (i.e., tablet or headphones), marketing materials, grant-related library displays, and more.

The grant application is EASY to complete.

But if you need help or advice, reach out the ICfL Grants/Contracts Officer Talela Florko. <https://libraries.idaho.gov/about/staff/>) If you have never applied for a grant from the ICfL, this would be a simple one to start with.

For more about this grant, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/monetary-grants/that-all-may-read-mini-grant/>.

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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

ICfL Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

TBS Grant Deadline Extended to May 6

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The TBS is a free, convenient audiobook library service that is available to any Idahoan who is blind, has low vision, or has a physical, perceptual, or reading disability.

The materials are mailed directly to and from the patron via the USPS at no cost to the user (sent “free matter for the blind”). Audiobooks and magazines can also be downloaded to a device.

There is an online catalog for direct ordering. In addition, customer service representatives are available to help patrons and their caregivers select titles, make changes to their preferences, and more so that the service is customized to meet the unique needs of each patron.

For more on the TBS, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>.



Other Grants

Keep an eye on the ICfL’s “monetary grants” page for a variety of grants that are available throughout the year.

For example, there will be a new grant this summer to assist with summer and out-of-school learning.

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/monetary-grants/>

Grant Help?

If you think completing a grant application is too time-consuming or beyond your grasp, contact ICfL Grants/Contracts Officer Talela Florko at Talela.Florko@libraries.idaho.gov.

Talela will be happy to help take the fear out of the grant process for you.

ICfL Staffing Updates

Clay Ritter is the ICfL's **public library consultant** for the state. Clay is based in Boise, but he does travel to consult with and provide problem-solving assistance to public library administrators, governing boards, and staff on matters such as those related to library plans, management, governance, services, funding, grant programs, and more. Other guidance Clay provides relates to the roles and responsibilities of public library directors and trustees.



Clay Ritter

In addition to making site visits, Clay attends library board meetings and regional library meetings. Also, Clay is the new state data coordinator, so he will be the “stats guy” who collects that information from public libraries. For the past four and a half years, Clay was the director of the Payette Public Library. For the five years prior, he was the director of the Richfield District Library and the Shoshone Public Library. Clay may be reached via email at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov or by phone at 208-639-4177.

Doug Baker is the ICfL's library technology consultant. Doug assists public libraries with the federal **E-rate** program and the state broadband reimbursement program (**EOR**). He also provides general library technology consulting support. Doug has been with the ICfL for approximately two years in the role of web developer. Prior to joining the ICfL, Doug worked for eight years at the Ada Community Library in a variety of IT-related roles. Doug may be reached via email at doug.baker@libraries.idaho.gov or by phone at 208-639-4173.

Who Does What at the ICfL?

If you need some help but aren't sure where to start, check the staff page at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/about/staff/>.

(And if you're still uncertain, just email one of us -- we'll get you to the right person to answer your question or tackle the issue.)



Out and About

Some members of the ICfL staff and its board were out and about earlier in April visiting libraries and a laundromat literacy site, along with seeing awesome new ARPA-funded vehicles. Here are highlights from the visits.

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM), Meridian

The bright, beautiful spaces of the buildings, including the library, contribute to the stress-relieving environment that helps the medical students prepare to achieve their goals in the medical field. (More than a few on the tour were ready to apply to the med school after experiencing the state-of-the-art trauma rooms.)



Meridian Library District -- unBound



Striving to be a business incubator for Meridian, the unBound branch provides access to a variety of emerging technology, such as a CNC machine, vacuum former, and laser cutter/engraver, along with the support and assistance community members need to utilize it. Library staff will even create a patron's design for them (and deliver it!). From fabrication equipment to a recording studio, unBound innovates for its patrons and community.

Kuna Library District

Planning a trip and need a passport? The Kuna Library District is a passport acceptance facility. An appointment is required, but library staff have compiled all of the particulars on one easy-to-navigate webpage. (An ICfL board member even started the process to get his passport while touring the beautiful library.)



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Out and About

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Nampa Public Library



The staff of the Nampa Public Library do a great job of ensuring their library is relevant for all. From VR picture books and their own podcasts to the express holds pickup window and online 3D printing submissions, the library team expertly pairs convenience with innovative offerings.

Lizard Butte Public Library, Marsing

The team at Lizard Butte Public are trying new things to reach their community members and let them know all that the library has to offer. Like for many libraries, COVID has changed some of the ways the library is being utilized -- or not -- such as fewer people using the library computers (since they likely had to get internet access and/or computers at home).



Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, Homedale



The staff and board of the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library in Homedale are planning a districting project that they hope will find support on the November ballot.

If successful, the library could stay open more hours, hire more staff, and provide additional books, resources, and classes.

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Caldwell Public Library & Get the Funk Out Laundromat

Those on the tour were able to witness a site of “learning in everyday spaces” at the Caldwell location of the Get the Funk Out Laundromat, which is partnering with the Caldwell Public Library through the Idaho Libraries and Laundromats initiative.

The project aims to:

- serve families/caregivers with young children who are unable/unlikely to visit the library
- serve families/caregivers in their efforts to prepare their children for kindergarten
- utilize laundromat wait times as learning opportunities

There are 17 Idaho libraries participating in the laundromat literacy initiative. For more, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/libraries-laundromats/>.



ARPA-Funded Vehicle -- Caldwell Public

Staff and a board member from Caldwell Public brought their new ARPA*-funded vehicle to the event at the laundromat.



*American Rescue
Plan Act

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Out and About

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Albertsons Library / Boise State University (BSU)

The accommodating staff of the Albertsons Library not only gave the ICfL folks a tour, but they also hosted the ICfL board meeting. The library's beautiful spaces and abundant offerings greatly help BSU's students achieve their academic goals.



Family Study Room

Hagerman Elementary School

A struggle for the staff of the Hagerman Elementary School was enticing some of their older kids to read. By using a significant portion of their ARPA grant funding for the purchase of e-readers, many students who didn't like to read now do. Staff was also able to replace books that were lost during COVID, which really helps because the younger students still like a physical book.



Hagerman Public Library



From its computer area up front to the patio out back, staff of the Hagerman Public Library make great use of their wonderful spaces, and they come up with eye-catching ideas like their summer reading octopus display.

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Out and About

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Richfield School

The Richfield School, which serves all students (K-12) in the district, utilized its \$30,000 ARPA grant to establish an e-book collection for the school. The digital content will include high-interest fiction, nonfiction, audiobooks, and read-along books.



Richfield Public Library



From the front of the library that is replete with titles to the bright, fun children's space in the back, the Richfield Public Library is an invaluable resource for the community.

Gooding Public Library

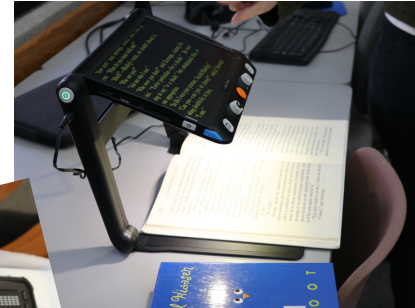
With its open space, impressive "library of things," and array of programming, the Gooding Public Library serves its patrons well.



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Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB), Gooding

If you want to meet someone who is extremely passionate about what they do, go visit School Librarian Sharlyn Jackson at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding. (Didn't know Idaho had one? Find out more <https://www.iesdb.org/>.)



The ISDB is utilizing much of its \$25,000 in ARPA funds to purchase equipment for their students, such as refreshable braille devices (\$4,000 each!), which are a game-changer for blind kids. For the deaf students, graphic novels have been the key to enticing them to read.

Glenns Ferry Public Debuts the "Beyond the Books" Bus

On April 15, 2022, staff, trustees, partners, and supporters of the Glenns Ferry Public Library debuted the library's "Beyond Books Bus."

The fun event got going when Library Director Jennifer Trail, Glenns Ferry Mayor Billy Galloska, State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White (and others from the ICfL) cut the ribbon. Representative Matt Bundy also joined the event and toured the bus with Jennifer.



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Glenns Ferry Public Debuts the "Beyond the Books" Bus

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The bus will provide: mobile Wi-Fi; computer stations; printing services; in-person homework help; a children's area, rich with early literacy tools and books; a meeting space for community resource partners to meet with patrons about local services; and a small collection of books available for check out.

The \$82,890 cost of the bus was paid for with federal ARPA funding. One of Jennifer's innovative ideas was to secure fuel partners to help sustain the bus and the outreach work. She had metal advertising signs made for the partners. (The signs are easily removable.)



(Easily removable metal sponsorship signs.)



Trustee Talk

In this employee-driven labor market, library staff are exploring new job opportunities with alarming frequency. So, now is a good time to check and see if your library has a transition notebook.

If not, here's a guide for making one:

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Make-a-Transition-Notebook-Ring-Binder-Version-20211210.pdf>.

This resource and many others may be found on the ICfL's "trustees and directors" webpage:

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/trustees-directors/>. There you will also find an "emergency succession plan template," the "roles and responsibilities of public library trustees in Idaho," and much more.



ShareIdaho Enrollment for FY23

ShareIdaho is Idaho's group services agreement with OCLC. If you are a library director or point of contact for all things OCLC, and your library currently participates in the statewide resource-sharing agreement, you should have received your annual renewal notice for ShareIdaho.

If you did not and think you should have, please contact the ICfL's E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb. If you do not intend to make any changes to your OCLC subscription, then do nothing! If you do intend to make changes to your OCLC subscription, contact William no later than **Friday, June 3, 2022**. For more information, please visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/shareidaho-oclc-renewal-and-enrollment-for-fiscal-year-2023/>.



ICfL Blog for Mid-Life Adults

On its website each month, the ICfL provides a blog with resources and information for mid-life adults.

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/adult-services-resources-for-april-2022/>

For example, there is a link to marketing materials and more information on Older Americans Month, which is May. There are marketing materials in English and Spanish. To reach that site directly, visit <https://acl.gov/oam/2022/older-americans-month-2022>



Mexican Consulate in Boise Houses a Little Free Library



In partnership with St. Luke's Hospital, the Mexican Consulate in Boise now houses a little free library as another resource for the Latinix community. ICfL Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator Ismael Mendoza Medina donated 40 Spanish book titles to the little library on behalf of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Further plans include connecting the Consulate with nearby public libraries and community members to facilitate ongoing donations to the little free library.

Why Didn't I Think of That?



Caldwell Public Library includes English and Spanish on marketing materials.

Paris Elementary holds a special reading week when students are given extra time to read. Dads are invited to come read with their children early one morning for "Dads and Doughnuts."

